

Message Text

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TAGS PINT IT

SUBJ NEW GOVERNMENT AND ITALIAN/U.S. RELATIONS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: WHILE THE RUMOR GOVERNMENT FACES PROBLEMS AND RISKS INHERENT TO ANY NEWLY FORMED AND UNTRIED CABINET OPERATING IN A DIFFICULT PERIOD, ITS FORMATION DOES NOT SUGGEST ANY CHALLENGE TO TRADITIONALLY STRONG US/ITALIAN TIES. LOYALTY TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, SUPPORT FOR A UNITED EUROPE AND STRONG BILATERAL TIES WITH U.S. HAVE BEEN FEATURES OF RECENT PARTY STATEMENTS BY ALL COALITION PARTNERS. MOREOVER, PERSONALITIES AND PAST TRACK RECORDS OF INDIVIDUALS IN KEY FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENSE AND ECONOMIC MINISTRIES REINFORCE THE LIKELIHOOD THAT, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE DIFFERENCES OF STYLE, THERE WILL BE LITTLE OR NONE IN SUBSTANCE. ALTHOUGH A SHIFT LEFWARD FROM THE ANDREOTTI CENTER FORMULA, THE RUMOR GOVERNMENT APPEARS SOMEWHAT MORE WEIGHTED TO RIGHT THAN WAS LAST CENTER-LEFT EDITION HEADED BY EMILIO COLOMBO. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING AN ANTICIPATED FAVORABLE PARLIAMENTARY VOTE OF CONFIDENCE SOME TIME BEFORE THE END OF JULY, ITALY'S 35TH POST
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WAR GOVERNMENT IS NOT EXPECTED TO DEVIATE FROM THE ESTABLISHED

POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE AND FOR CLOSE AND FRIENDLY BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. CENTER-LEFT COALITIONS GOVERNED ITALY FROM 1962 TO 1972, AND PROVED THAT SOCIALIST ENTRY INTO THE CABINET (AND WITH NENNI, EVEN INTO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY) BROUGHT NO CHANGE TO THE ABOVE BROAD LINES OF ITALIAN POLICY. WHILE PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF THE CENTER-LEFT TENDED TO BE MORE DETENTE-ORIENTED THAN THE CENTER ADMINISTRATIONS WHICH PROCEEDED THEM, ANY SUCH RENEWED PROCLIVITIES SHOULD NOT PROVE TROUBLESOME IN AN ERA OF CSCE, MBFR AND THE WINDING-DOWN OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN HOSTILITIES. ALTHOUGH THE LARGE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY CAN BE EXPECTED, IN OPPOSITION, TO CONTINUE TO EXERT PRESSURE TO WEAKEN THE COUNTRY'S TIES TO NATO AND TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH THE EAST, THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS TACTIC WILL BE MORE SUCCESSFUL THIS TIME THEN IT WAS UNDER PREVIOUS CENTER-LEFT ADMINISTRATIONS. IN ANY EVENT, ITALY'S FOCUS PERFORCE WILL CONTINUE TO BE DIRECTED ESSENTIALLY INWARD TOWARD THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

3. THE CURRENT CABINET INCLUDES MANY FAMILAR NAMES WITH WHOM THE U.S. HAS LONG ENJOYED CLOSE AND CORDIAL RELATIONS. PRIME MINISTER RUMOR, NOW IN HIS FOURTH ASSIGNMENT AT PLAZZO CHIGI, IS A LONGSTANDING FRIEND OF THE U.S. WITH SOLID IDEAS ON BOTH NATO AND MEDITERRANEAN DEFENSE. WHILE CRITICIZED BY SOME CONSERVATIVES FOR BEING ONE OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DOWNFALL OF ANDREOTTI'S CENTER COALITION AND THE RELAUNCHING OF THE CENTER-LEFT, THIS DOES NOT IN ANY MEANINGFUL WAY DETRACT FROM RUMOR'S OWN QUITE SOLID CONSERVATIVE CREDENTIALS.

4. MORO'S FOUR-GOVERNMENT (1969-72) TENURE AS FOREIGN MINISTER WAS ALSO CHARACTERIZED BY EVEN-HANDED, CAREFUL MANAGEMENT OF ITALY'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS ALONG TRADITIONAL POLICY LINES. ON THE BASIS OF PAST PERFORMANCE, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT MORO WILL ATTEMPT THE GRANDSTAND EFFORTS OF SOME OF HIS MORE FLAMBOYANT PREDECESSORS SUCH AS FANFANI, OR INDEED OF THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT'S GIUSEPPE MEDICI. WE DO NOT, FOR EXAMPLE, ANTICIPATE A REPEAT OF MEDICI'S SINGLE-HANDED MIDDLE EAST INITIATIVE AND WOULD IN GENERAL EXPECT GREATER TEAM-PLAY FROM MORO BOTH WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE ITALIAN CABINET AND WITHIN THE NATO FAMILY OF FOREIGN MINISTERS. WE HAVE HAD RECENT INDICATIONS, FOR EXAMPLE, CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT MORO IS ACTIVELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL THREAT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, IT CAN BE EXPECTED THAT MORO WILL KEEP GOI MID EAST POLICY IN HARMONY WITH ITS EC PARTNERS. IN ANY EVENT, MORO'S RETURN TO THE FARNESINA IS UNIFORMLY APPLAUDED BY FOREIGN OFFICE STAFF EXASPERATED BY MEDICI'S HIGHLY INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE.

5. BACK AGAIN AT DEFENSE, ALSO FOR A FOURTH TERM, IS MARIO

TANASSI, A STAUNCH ANTI-COMMUNIST WHO HAS BEEN FULLY COOPERATIVE WITH THE U.S. IN MILITARY MATTERS, MOST RECENTLY IN ALLOCATION OF HOME PORT FACILITIES AT LA MADDALENA AND IN APPROVING PROJECT FENDER. ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT, THE TRIUMVRATE OF LA MALFA, COLOMBO AND GIOLITT ARE ALL THOROUGHLY TRIED AND TESTED IN ECONOMIC-MONETARY AFFAIRS AND ALL HAVE LONG BEEN ON GOOD TERMS WITH THE U.S.

6. ALTHOUGH BY DEFINITION TO THE LEFT OF ITS IMMEDIATE PREDECESSOR, RUMOR'S COALITION SEEMS ON THE WHOLE TO HAVE A SLIGHTLY MORE CONSERVATIVE CAST THAN THE LAST CENTER-LEFT HEADED BY COLOMBO. SOCIALISTS RETAIN SAME NUMBER OF CABINET ALOTS AS UNDER COLOMBO BUT NO LONGER HOLD VICE PREMIERSHIP (NOW VACANT); ON BALANCE, THEIR PRESENT CABINET-LEVEL REPRESENTATION SEEMS A BIT MORE WEIGHTED TO THE RIGHT. AT THE AUTONOMISTS NOW HAVE TWO SEATS VERSUS ONE UNDER COLOMBO. REPRESENTATIVES FROM DE MARTINO'S FACTION ARE ALL FROM THE CENTER LEFT OF PARTY'S CENTER IS BERTOLDI, BUT, IN GOVERNMENT HE MAY HAVE LESS LATITUDE AND INDEPENDENCE OF ACTION THAN IN HIS FORMER POST OF CHAMBER FLOOR LADER (WHERE HE IS EXPECTED TO BE SUCCEEDED BY THE RELATIVELY CONSERVATIVE LUIGI MARLOTTI). FOR THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, ALTHOUGH RIGHT WING MAURO FERRI IS MISSING FROM PRESENT GOVERNMENT, THE PRESENCE OF PRETI AND MATTEOTTI ASSURE A MAJOR VOICE TO PSDI CONSERVATIVES. REPUBLICAN LEADER LA MALFA REPRESENTS THE PARTY CENTER AND NEW SECOND SEAT IN CABINET HAS GONE TO ONE OF PARTY'S MOST CONSERVATIVE MAJOR FIGURES, PIETRO BUCALOSSI. AS REGARDS THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, THE ABSENCE OF FERZE NUOVE'S DONAT CATTIN FROM THE KEY LABOR MINISTRY WHICH HE HELD FROM 1969 UNTIL 1972 IS NOTEWORTHY. HIS RELATIVE DEMOTION TO MINISTRY WITHOUT PORTFOLIO FOR SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT AND MODERATE CAST OF OTHER DC LEFTISTS IN CABINET (DE MITA, GUI, RIPAMONTI AND TOROS) MAY POINT TO LESS STRIDENT POSTURE THAN THAT ASSUMED BY THE PARTY LEFT UNDER

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ANDREOTTI AND LATER EDITIONS OF PREVIOUS CENTER-LEFT GOVERNMENTS. VOLPE

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